

TOWN Reminder

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Drive-up graduation to occur Aug. 7

*South Hadley
School Committee
felt 'decision was
already made'*

By MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff Report

SOUTH HADLEY – After many hours and proposed plans, the South Hadley School Committee discussed the only option available – a drive-up graduation ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 7 at South Hadley High School.

The committee members received a petition and emails read during public comment from students in the class of 2020 including the class officers regarding the graduation ceremony and shared their disappointment.

In the committee's previous meeting, four plans were ranked on preference by the

Please see **GRADUATION**,
page 11



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

**Basketball players
are allowed back
on the blacktop at
Buttery Brook Park,
but pick-up games are
prohibited.**

Confusing count; no reason to relax

*Selectboard
expresses
frustration with
data system*

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Residents appear to be split on the validity of the pandemic, but case numbers offer no reason to relax. South Hadley Town Administrator described action that was taken against a town employee who was enforcing COVID-19 regulations at a public facility on July 17.

"We had an unfortunate experience Friday afternoon where a Parks employee was at one of the spray parks, and a woman with her children came up to him and said, 'Why is the spray going off at 2 p.m.? I want you to turn it back on right now.' He told her that he couldn't; that it's open from 10 to 2, and she spit on him," said Sullivan during the July 21 Selectboard meeting.

Emergency Management/Health Director Sharon Hart began Tuesday evening's conversa-

tion around the virus, analyzing misleading data that improperly suggests a significant uptick in South Hadley's COVID-19 case-load.

On July 21, Hart reported that South Hadley has seen 167 confirmed, 134 contact, six probable and two suspect cases during the pandemic, but that 17 new cases were added to the report this past week.

Fortunately, the numbers do not reflect the current state of COVID-19 cases in South Hadley; Hart explained that an error made by the state falsely depicts a drastic rise.

"These aren't increases that came in during the last week or two; they were already there but not reported in the MAVEN system," she said, referring to the state's database for case management.

Hart and Public Health Nurse Margret Bernard recently sought to discover how many South Hadley residents have died from COVID-19. They instead learned that the state had failed to alert them of more than a dozen positive cases that occurred in South Hadley months ago.

"When I ran a report, it was showing only 18 deaths for South

**"Numbers, statistics,
data – they're only
valuable if management
can use it to make
decisions. I imagine
it must be hard for
yourself or anybody
else to use these
numbers to answer,
'How are we doing
as a community?'"**

Hadley. I had some concerns, so I talked to Marge and she investigated. What happened was when we had a cluster at [Vero Health and Rehab], the state [epidemiologist] turned it into what's called a 'cluster' and took over that reporting," said Hart.

We had assumed that those cases were being put into the system. When we did follow up on these cases, we found out that they hadn't been put into the system. Those numbers are now in the system, which caused the increase you see here in the numbers," she continued.

Another case was duplicated, and a new South Hadley resident

tested positive weeks ago while out of state but appears on the list.

Selectboard member Chris Geraghty voiced his frustration with the confusion and overall lack of clarity, as he addressed Hart.

"Numbers, statistics, data – they're only valuable if management can use it to make decisions," he said. "I imagine it must be hard for yourself or anybody else to use these numbers to answer, 'How are we doing as a community?'"

Geraghty inquired as to whether there is a database that the town can use to identify the amount of active cases. Hart responded that the MAVEN system is the town's only resource, and her department is unable to attain an active case count.

"By looking at this you could say we have a real issue," he said. "When you look at the numbers in the Town Administrator's Report, it's alarming because you see 51 confirmed cases on April 28, and things were pretty shut down. Then you look at July 14, and there's 150. Someone could look at this information and data

Please see **DATA**, page 3

Berkshire Hills getting back on beat

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Michelle Theroux, Executive Director of the Berkshire Hills Music Academy, can count off the top of her head how many days have passed since the institution halted its day program on March 17.

She won't have to count much longer and expects the facility on Woodbridge Street to reopen the program at a reduced capacity on August 10. Staff members are preparing to welcome back several dozen individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"By the time we'd open, it will have been 145 days that we've been closed," said Theroux. "Berkshire Hills is really part of our individuals' lives in terms of not only the structure and routine we offer but also the social and emotional aspect; the friendships and relationships that they develop while they are with us."

Theroux stressed that a four-month hiatus equates to "a lot of time in lost learning," but her staff anticipates the challenges that lie ahead. When the day program resumes, much will look different; numerous COVID-19-related restrictions are now in place.

"Masks must be worn by all staff members and individuals; there are also social distancing requirements and capacity lim-



Photos by Michelle Theroux

Berkshire Hills Music Academy is anticipated to reopen at reduced capacity on Aug. 10.

itations" said Theroux. "We are only able to open to a total of about 25 individuals at first. That is based off of a 113 square foot per person requirement that the Executive Offices of Health and Human Services have set forward."

To determine scheduling and who is allowed back first, BHMA is "looking at the individuals from a risk/benefit perspective." Individuals who are most medically at risk will continue to stay home while those who benefit most from the program and are

able to social distance will be welcomed back on August 10.

New cleaning and disinfecting protocols have been implemented and staff members have received new training. They've also tended to the individuals who have resided on the South Hadley campus during the pandemic.

"Throughout COVID-19, our residential services, our dorm on campus as well as our group homes and shared living program, have been up and operational. It's a 24/7 platform. It's

where they live; it's their residence," said Theroux.

Anyone entering BHMA must pass temperature and symptom checks at the doors. The screening protocol includes both participants and staff members.

The BHMA uses music to help individuals with developmental disabilities strengthen the skills that are necessary to communicate, gain employment and ultimately be independent. From nursing homes to music venues, BHMA performers frequent lo-

cations all across the region.

Unfortunately, that tradition remains on pause. For the foreseeable future, live in-person performances will not be plausible on account of COVID-19.

"We have a very strong music component to our programming that provides concerts and various performances in the community" said Theroux. "That won't be up and running in this early stage because most of the venues who do hire us are unable to have either live music or visitors. We're looking at doing remote offerings for those types of venues."

While numerous obstacles await, BHMA is excited to rev its engines once more. As time goes on, it is Theroux's hope that the facility will find its new normal.

"We want to provide a home for individuals where they can live and learn safely with staff supervision and support to ensure that their goals are met," she said. "As we open up and welcome more people back onto campus, there comes an inherent risk that we are anxious about but we are also taking the recommended protocols and safety requirements to heart and implementing them accordingly."

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Mailing it in

SHCTV voting series continues

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – As the September and November elections inch closer, South Hadley Community Television is doing all that it can to keep voters informed. There have been several changes to the voting process, all of which are being tackled by an ongoing SHCTV mini-series.

The second episode of the five-part series was uploaded to SHCTV’s Facebook and Vimeo pages on July 17 and is aptly-titled “Now that I have a vote by mail ballot application, what do I do with it?”

Volunteer poll worker and South Hadley resident Pricilla Mandrachia has narrated the first two programs. She dove into last week’s program, covering what viewers may have missed in the first installment.

“In this new world of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Massachusetts State Legislature has been hard at work to ensure that we can all vote safely in addition to all the other safeguards around our fundamental right to vote,” said Mandrachia.

To vote in the upcoming state and federal elections, South Hadley residents must be registered to vote in town. August 12 is the deadline to register for the September 1 primary and October 14 will be the final day that one can register for the November 3 federal elections.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone who registers will be given the option to vote by mail. Applications for vote-by-mail have been mailed out to residents; Mandrachia emphasized that they are not ballots.

Upon receiving a vote-by-mail ballot application, a prospective voter will be asked to provide their name, date of birth, telephone number and email address. All information

must be printed.

A telephone number and email address are not required but serve to allow Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin to contact residents if issues with an application arise.

Section II of the application will inquire a voter’s ballot preference; a voter has the ability to choose either a Democrat or Republican ballot. Independent voters who receive a Democrat or Republican ballot will not be enrolled into either political party.

The final section of the application will request an address for the vote-by-mail ballot to be delivered to. Individuals must sign and date the application for it to be considered valid.

“While using the U.S. Mail is the most obvious option for submitting your vote by mail ballot application, you can also submit your application by fax, email or at a secure drop box, which is being installed at Town Hall. In all cases your signature is required and must be visible on emailed or faxed copies,” said Mandrachia.

In early August, SHCTV will release the series’ third program; the edition will cover the intricacies of early voting. The summer slate of episodes will only cover information directly pertaining to the September election; a fall series will focus on the November Federal election.

Individuals who request vote-by-mail ballots can expect to receive them shortly after their applications are received. Mandrachia concluded the program with a tidbit of information.

“One final reminder,” she said. “If you are already registered to vote but have moved since you last voted or changed your name, you can update your information through the Secretary of State’s website; www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

DATA from page 1

and say that we have way more cases now while things are all opened up.”

Vice Chair Sarah Etelman was also unhappy. Before speaking, she made it clear that her statement was not an indictment against Hart or her depart-

ment.

“The state is opening up and we are about to send kids back to school, but we have no idea of our numbers,” said Etelman, advocating for more widespread testing. “Those numbers aren’t even remotely close to what we are experiencing in South Hadley.”

Granby selectboard passes resolution calling for action at Soldiers’ Home

Staff Report

HOLYOKE – Granby Selectboard resolved to call on Governor Baker and the legislature to take immediate action by increasing funding to ensure sufficient staff, equipment and supplies to provide safe care at the Holyoke Soldier’s Home, after a unanimous vote on Monday.

Granby joined Ludlow and Southwick Selectboards in passing a resolution that calls for staffing and capital improvements in support of veterans who reside at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.

The resolutions support the

coalition’s appeal to the state to expedite the design of a new Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.

The design would allow for the construction of fully compliant rooms for 250 Veterans, including a toilet and shower in each bedroom and supports the coalition’s advocacy for an Adult Day Health Care program at the home.

The resolutions agree with the Coalition that the state must meet the VA project submission dates of April 15, 2021 for these projects to finally get off the ground.

In addition to Granby, Ludlow and Southwick, organizations that have also passed res-

olutions in support of Coalition efforts include the Massachusetts Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, representing all VFW members in the state and the American Legion and Chapter One-Eleven of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Citizens, cities, towns and organizations can write to the coalition at

HolyokeSoldiersHomeCoalition@gmail.com for assistance with the language for a resolution and to discuss Coalition efforts, our mission, and goals to bring much-needed improvements to the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.

Governor announces \$20M available to households affected by pandemic

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito administration recently announced a new \$20 million, statewide fund to assist low-income households facing difficulty making rent and mortgage payments. The Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance program will provide direct funding to eligible households who have suffered financial hardship during the State of Emergency put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19.

ERMA will expand eligibility for rental and mortgage assistance to more low-income households who have been impacted by the crisis by adjusting the income threshold beyond the state’s traditional Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program. This includes households within the 50-80 percent range of Area Median Income. Like the RAFT program, ERMA will provide up to \$4,000 for eligible households to pay rent or mortgage payments in arrears going back to payments due

April 1, 2020. Applicants can reach out to the 11 agencies that administer RAFT on the state’s behalf, including the nine Housing Consumer Education Centers, as well as LHAND and the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance.

Funding for the new program includes \$10 million from the supplemental CDBG Coronavirus fund, part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, in addition to other federal resources.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has drafted emergency regulations to protect tenants under the eviction and foreclosure moratorium, supported state-aided public housing and affordable housing operators with guidance, and worked with stakeholders across the state to coordinate resources.

Additional resources and information can be found on the department’s COVID-19 Resource Page at mass.gov.

United Way distributes hundreds of boxes of food

SPRINGFIELD – Starting on Tuesday, June 30, the United Way of Pioneer Valley began distributing hundreds of boxes of shelf stable food items to community partner agencies for distribution to potentially thousands of needy clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The boxes of shelf-stable food have been secured through United Way’s relationship with MEMA as they distribute food throughout the Commonwealth in response to the ongoing pandemic.

Paul Mina, President and CEO of United Way of Pioneer Valley, said, “We are honored to play a part in the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 response efforts. We have worked with MEMA closely in their relief efforts for Hampden County and are happy to continue to help.”

United Way of Pioneer Valley mobilizes people and resources to strengthen our communities. We target the community’s most pressing needs and focus resources, community partnerships, and the energy of volunteers to create measurable results.

For more information, visit uwpv.org.

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► Public Safety

RMV encouraging customers to renew licenses online now, upgrade to Real ID in 2021 for free

Customers who renew standard license online at Mass.Gov/RMV before August 12 will have \$25 Real ID upgrade fee waived upon future return visit to a Service Center.

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is encouraging all eligible customers to renew their standard Massachusetts driver's license or Massachusetts ID card online at Mass.Gov/RMV any time between now and August 12, 2020, in order to qualify for a free upgrade to a REAL ID credential in 2021. This one-time, time limited offer is available to most customers who have an expired or expiring license or ID card dated between March 2020 and August 2021, as renewals are allowed up to two years after expiration, or up to a year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID.

"The RMV is encouraging all of our customers to stay safe, save time, and go online during the COVID-19 pandemic to renew their license or ID card, rather than attempting to come in to get a REAL ID," said RMV Registrar Jamey Tesler. "Over 500,000 people have a license or ID credentials that expires this summer that can be renewed online, and we hope they will all take advantage of this one-time offer for a free, future upgrade to allow the RMV to prioritize 'social-distancing' and other essential transactions that may only be completed in-person."

Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online prior to August 12th and wish to upgrade to a REAL ID for free, will have to wait until at least February 2021 to visit an RMV Service Center. At this time, customers will not need a federally-compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to October 1, 2021 because the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one-year. The fee for obtaining a standard or REAL ID license is \$50, while the fee for obtaining a standard or REAL ID card is \$25. The typical \$25 upgrade / amendment fee will be waived under these qualifying circumstances. A limited digital campaign - "Stay Safe, Save Time, Go Online" - will also accompany this promotion and can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/B3NuHgTwa3Q>

Obtaining an initial federally-compliant Real ID requires all customers to visit a Service Center in-person to present verifying documents. The RMV has introduced this initiative and fee waiver pursuant to Executive Order 39 issued by Governor Baker on June 12, 2020, and in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage 'social-distancing' and limit unnecessary travel by reducing the need for many customers to visit a Service Center, and allowing for the prioritization of essential in-person needs by appointment-only.

Customers should take the following steps to determine their online renewal eligibility and to qualify for this offer:

Visit Mass.Gov/RMV, login to your "myRMV" account, and find out if they are permitted to renew online.

Renew online by August 12th - your new standard license or ID card will be sent to you via U.S. Mail.

The cost for renewing a driver's license is \$50. The cost for renewing an ID card is \$25. These costs are the same for both a standard or REAL ID license or ID card. The cost for upgrading or amending a license or ID card outside of your renewal cycle is \$25, which will be waived for participating, eligible RMV customers.

Customers who renew online will have to wait until at least February 2021 to make an appointment for a REAL ID and have their \$25 upgrade / amendment fee waived. Anyone who holds a valid U.S. passport or other federally-compliant form of identification may never need a RMV-issued Real ID.

As a service to its members, AAA continues to issue REAL ID credentials for their members only and members should make an appointment before visiting an AAA location.

While the RMV has previously announced the below automatic extensions to certain expiring licenses and ID cards, all eligible customers are encouraged to take advantage of this offer by renewing online prior to August 12th.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that expired or will expire in March, April, and May 2020 will now expire in September 2020.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in June have been extended until October 2020.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in July have been extended until November 2020.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in August have been extended until December 2020.

All RMV customers are encouraged to visit www.Mass.Gov/RMV to renew their license or ID card, and complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

For details on these and other credential expiration date extensions and additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

SOUTH HADLEY POLICE LOG

Compiled by
Melina Bourdeau
townreminder@turley.com

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the South Hadley Police log and arrests for the week of June 6 to July 12. The information was provided by Chief Jennifer Gundersen based on review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Mass General Law prohibits the release of names of those arrested for domestic incidents.

Monday July 6

3:59 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-car crash at the Route 202 rotary. No injuries were reported.

5:35 p.m. – Officers investigated a report of theft of a motor vehicle license plate.

Tuesday, July 7

12:06 p.m. – Officers took a report some inappropriate comments made against a person on social media. The caller was advised that they could block the offender and refer to the court, should it rise to criminal event.

1:03 p.m. – A cell phone was turned into the police which officers attempted to return to the owner.

5:20 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-car accident on Granby Road. No injuries were reported.

Wednesday, July 8

8:46 a.m. – Vandalism to the Bynan Conservation Area was reported. Officers advised people to stay off the trails with motorized vehicles.

Thursday, July 9

7:07 a.m. – Police investigated an allegation from a social media post.

7:31 a.m. – Officers invested an ongoing neighborhood issues and offered assistance.

3:01 p.m. – Officers responded to three-car crash on Lathrop Street. Injuries were reported and several people were transported with minor injuries.

7:21 p.m. – Police took a report of a hit and run on College Street.

Friday July 10

6:57 a.m. –Police are investigating a report of breaking and entering into a vehicle on Ranger Street. It was reported the vehicle was left unlocked.

10:33 a.m. – Officers took a report of a car broken into on Dartmouth street. Nothing was stolen from the vehicle which was left unlocked.

11:55 a.m. – Officers took a report of a car that broken into on Dartmouth street. Nothing was stolen from the vehicle.

3:56 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-car crash on Newton Street. There were no injuries reported.

Saturday July 11

5 p.m. – Officers took a report of a credit card that was used for theft of \$100. Officers referred the caller to the vendor and the credit card company.

11:01 p.m. – Officers responded to a one car crash on Ferry Street.

Sunday, July 12

3:01 p.m. – Officers took a report of alleged harassment over social media. The person was advised how they could block the offender from page.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. One-time world power

5. Central Florida city

10. Winged nut

12. Elevate spiritually

14. Creative

16. It cools your home

18. Woman (French)

19. "60 Minutes" network

20. Old World lizard

22. Swiss river

23. Ethnic group of Cambodians

25. Abba __, Israeli politician

26. Tire measurement

27. Affirmative

28. Thrust horse power (abbr.)

30. One point north of due east

31. A type of "pet"

33. Tech giant

35. European nation

37. Fencing swords

38. Acquired

40. Origin

41. Cashless payment interface (abbr.)

42. Pouch

44. Peter's last name

45. Inclined

48. Palestinian territory

50. A type of syrup

52. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

53. Weather Underground activist

55. Run batted in

56. Frozen water

57. Sodium

58. Philly specialty

63. Cuts the wool off

65. Rules

66. Icelandic literary works

67. Tattled

CLUES DOWN

1. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman

2. Actors' organization

3. Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)

4. Ranch (Spanish)

5. Beginning

6. Index

7. Portuguese wine

8. A feudal superior

9. Military brach (abbr.)

10. Lithuanian given name

11. A way to become different

13. Able to be domesticated

15. Defensive nuclear weapon

17. Hosts film festival

18. Shows you how to get there

21. Arranged alphabetically

23. S. Thai isthmus

24. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Woods

29. Make yourself attractive

32. Concealed

34. Large primate

35. A favorite saying of a sect or political group

36. Tropical fruits

39. Obstruct

40. Car mechanics group

43. Stroke gently

44. They're in your toolbox

46. Throngs

47. One and only

49. In a way, bent

51. "Downton Abbey" broadcaster

54. Herring-like fish

59. A major division of geological time

60. Vast body of water

61. Cannister

62. Encourage

64. The man

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Living through history

Local elementary students share their thoughts on COVID-19

SOUTH HADLEY – Much like the rest of the world, children have gone through the pandemic and are experiencing history being made from their homes.

By Kresela Bregu

Coronavirus
Coronavirus is a deadly disease.
Stand up to it, it will give you a big breeze. That breeze is the corona.
Next day you end up in a coma. So stay home and stay and stay safe, wash your hands and be brave.

By Neveah Medeiros

The coronavirus is terrible
It is very shareable.
I can’t wait to see my friends
Hopefully this all ends.
I miss school,
I can’t wait till Grandma opens the pool!
Being home is boring,
I just started snoring.
Someone stop COVID-19 please,
This is the worst disease.
I want to go to the park,
But instead all I hear is my neighbor’s dog bark!
I’m stuck in the house,
Is that a mouse?
I miss the mall,
I want to play kickball.
I hope all this craziness ends,
So I can be a kid again!!

By Thomas Netkovick

Parks closed
Apple ipad
Natural
Disappointed
Ecosystem
Murder hornets
Isolated
Covid-19

By Elise Okraska-Helm

Everyday nowhere to go,
It can get boring,
We cannot go to restaurants
We cannot go to school,
But we have to make the most of it.

By Isaiah Clark

It made me miss my friends Landon, Johnny, Connor, Jaxson and Oconee.
I miss playing sports with my friends and miss playing kickball.
I like gym because you get exercise and also miss math class because you learn new stuff.
When the coronavirus came up the principal came on the speaker and I was very sorrowful because we had to stop school until next year!
I am playing on my Nintendo switch and tablet and doing work and spending time with my family, also I do reading.

By Landon Whalen

Crafts
Outside
Rides on a bike
Obstacle Course
Nothing :(
Art

Video Games
Ice cream cones
Reading
USA
Staying home

Tourism councils launch statewide billboard campaign

BOSTON – Beginning this month, commuters throughout the commonwealth will see “postcards of love” from the state’s tourism destination. For the next three months, digital billboards and MBTA stations will display “With Love From” messages from the tourism regions of Massachusetts.

The billboard campaign is part of an initiative developed by the state’s Regional Tourism Councils, including the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, to help restart the industry as the state reopens and to remind folks they can be a tourist from home.

“At the same moment Gov. [Charlie] Baker declared a state of emergency on March 10, the 16 Regional Tourism Council directors were meeting in Boston,” said Ann Marie Casey, co-chair of MA RTCs. “It was immediately evident to us that the damage to the tourism industry was going to be historic and we needed to plan for the day we could reopen.”

A marketing subcommittee of the councils quickly convened, reviewed the emerging research, committed funding and produced the “With Love From” theme with a new SpiritofMa.com landing page. The billboards will lead to a landing page where visitors may choose a region of interest and click through to destination websites for regional updates and travel information.

“During these challenging times, we applaud this unified effort to market the commonwealth as an ideal place to vacation when the time is right,” said Keiko Orrall, executive director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

Recent traveler sentiment surveys suggest that folks will travel close to home and will look for accommodations, dining and activities outdoors that are attesting to safety guidelines. Travel and tourism is one of Massachusetts’ key industries, accounting for nearly \$24.2 billion in direct spending in 2018 and generating \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes. The “With Love From” campaign reminds Massachusetts residents that the travel industry is open and safely caring for guests, and that its family and neighbors who work in the tourism industry are looking forward to going back to work.

To see images of the billboards and landing page, visit SpiritofMa.com.

COLLEGE NOTES

Ethan Fleming graduates from The University of Tampa

TAMPA, FL – Ethan Fleming, of South Hadley, graduated from The University of Tampa on May 9. Fleming graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Management.

The virtual commencement ceremony included 1,752 undergraduate and graduate candidates. The ceremony included remarks by President Ronald Vaughn, special messages from the academic deans and student challenge speakers. Additionally, each graduate received a personalized video commemorating their achievement.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University serves approximately 10,000 students from 50 states and about 130 countries.

University of New Hampshire’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 Semester

DURHAM, NH —The following students have been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for the spring 2020 semester.

Mackenzie Pete of South Hadley for earning Honors. Pete is majoring in Psychology.

Sarah Fudger of South Hadley for earning High Honors. Fudger is majoring in BiomedSci:Med&VetSci.

Caitlin Murphy of South Hadley for earning Highest Honors. Murphy is majoring in Social Work.

Kayleigh Hynek of South Hadley for earning Highest Honors. Hynek is majoring in Social Work.

Students named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH’s research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

Comcast NBCUniversal awards \$115K in scholarships to 46 Massachusetts high school seniors

SPRINGFIELD – South Hadley resident Rainy Wortelboer was among 46 High School seniors to receive a Comcast Leaders and Achievers scholarship. Wortelboer will be studying biology at Brown University.

The award, funded by the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, is a one-time, \$2,500 scholarship to be used toward undergraduate education-related expenses.

When asked what community meant to her, Wortelboer said, “I am passionate about many things, most of which center around public health and drug delivery medical research. In order to have a functioning society, the safety and health of its citizens is the number one priority. I really enjoy learning about new advances in biotech and the fundamentals of chemical biology.”

he Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program recognizes high school seniors for their community service, academic performance, and leadership skills. These scholarships are provided to give young people the opportunity to continue their education to better compete in tomorrow’s workplace. Applicants to the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program must demonstrate academic excellence, commitment to community service, and outstanding qualities in character, integrity and leadership.

Local residents named to RIT Dean’s List for spring semester

ROCHESTER, NY - The following local residents made the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 Spring Semester. Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean’s List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete,” “D” or “F”; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Tom O’Neill of South Hadley, who is in the electrical engineering program.

Clayton Koppi of South Hadley, who is in the electrical engineering program.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

Quabbin Art offers free online art demos

REGION – Quabbin Art Association is offering free 30-minute art tutorials that are designed to connect artists to one another, to introduce a wide range of art forms, to play and to make art together, and to provide teaching opportunities for those who may or may not already offer art classes.

Interested in participating? Simply email the presenter to register, and they will forward the Zoom link, a description of the tutorial, and an (optional) supply list. The only thing required of you is to download the Zoom app to your device ahead of time and then click on the link found in the presenter’s email on the date and time of the tutorial. If you are unsure of how to download the Zoom app, get on the phone and ask a friend to walk you through it, or follow the instructions on one of the dozens of Youtube instructional videos.

Here’s the line-up to participate in the two upcoming sessions:

Watercolor with Deborah Sacon; debsacon@gmail.com
Monday, July 27 at 12 p.m.

Zentangle with Susan Shea; lifei-

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Time to learn the system from the inside

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

I’ve spent a long time in politics, and over those years one thing has remained constant: There are a lot more Americans who criticize government than there are who serve and do something about it.

I’ll admit, there have been times when I’ve felt a bit resentful. It’s hard to enter the fray, be expected to listen patiently to criticism from all comers, and then look around to find that many of them are nowhere to be found when it comes to the hard work of improving our communities and our system.

But far more than annoyance, what I’ve felt is amazement at the immense but often un-grasped opportunity our system offers. This is especially acute these days, as millions of Americans take to the streets and to social media with passionate intensity, driven by deeply-held beliefs or newfound conviction and a sense that it’s time to weigh in. I agree—but then, I think it’s always time to weigh in. That’s what our system asks of us as citizens. And in particular, I’d argue that it asks us to do it from the inside, not just from the outside.

We desperately need citizens to enter the public arena—people who are not afraid to plunge in and try to improve our democratic institutions. To be sure, critics and ordinary engaged citizens have an important role to play in shaping the public discourse. But if at some point in their lives they and others do not also see a duty to serve, our nation is in trouble.

I know the arguments you can find against it. You have to compromise your values. It’s thankless. The system turns you into a cog. You make yourself a target of scrutiny. You can’t actually accomplish anything.

To all of this, I say: So? There is no question that our governing institutions need improving. But it’s not going to happen unless people with the power to change them roll up their sleeves and set about doing so. And those people are the ones inside those institutions, who’ve learned how they work and who understand that actual change happens by dint of legislation, administration, and the nitty-gritty details of reform.

There are plenty of other things you can do, too: vote, spend time learning the issues you care about, make informed judgments about your elected representatives, get involved in organizations that advocate for the causes you value. But as writer Andy Smarick put it recently in “The Bulwark,” “[G]overning is formative. Knocking on doors as a candidate is not just about winning votes. Sitting through a long bill hearing is not just about following the legislative process. Taking part in public debates is not just about self-expression. Making a tough governing decision is not just about resolving a policy matter. Through these activities, the public servant listens to fellow citizens, learns of competing priorities, and witnesses principles in conflict.”

In our democracy, these and other skills are vital, not just for public officials, but for any citizen who wants to be involved in the community. Listening to our peers, understanding their hopes, appreciating the differences among them, grasping why accommodation and compromise are crucial to resolving those differences, and learning how to accomplish them are part and parcel of making a representative democracy work. People who do this feel in their bones how hard it is to govern in a large, diverse republic, and why we depend on large numbers of ordinary people to step forward, find their niche, and participate on town boards, in state legislatures, and in Congress.

So, as I look about at the remarkable levels of public engagement in this intense political year, I find myself hoping that more comes out of it than simple public pressure. I hope that

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 7



Common questions regarding tomatoes, shrubs and more

This is a common question about the cracks that often occur on tomatoes: “most of the fruit have circular cracks, almost all the way around, up near the stem end. Is this a disease or nutrient deficiency?”

Neither! What you are describing are growth cracks. Tomatoes generally crack when a droughty period is followed by lots of rain. Cracks tend to be worse if the weather has been hot. The tomatoes on two of the nine plants I am growing in my vegetable garden are exhibiting this problem as well. Some varieties tend to be more “crack tolerant” than others, and are labeled as such in seed catalogs. To prevent future cracks, be sure to water on a regular basis. Don’t be afraid to eat damaged fruit; while they aren’t pretty, they are edible. More prone to rot, however, so use them quickly.

Autumnal sunflowers

A perennial aficionado from Brimfield is curious about the autumnal sunflower (*Helenium autumnale*), otherwise known as Sneezeweed. “I absolutely love this plant for the late season color that it adds to my perennial border. My only problem is that it is too tall. I have pinched back perennial asters for years with success. Can this same technique be used to make a stouter clump of Sneezeweed?”

It certainly can. Like you, I love everything about Sneezeweed, except for its



height, which can top off at four feet! It is a native plant, which is not bothered by insects or diseases to speak of, has lovely long-lasting yellow or rusty orange flowers and despite what its name implies, doesn’t make you sneeze. Years ago I experimented with reducing the height of my own plants and pinched them back twice. They were about 18 inches shorter at bloom time than they would have been and still flowered abundantly. Next year try it for yourself. When the plant is about a foot tall, remove the top few nodes of each shoot. Repeat the pinching process a couple of weeks later, finishing by the end of June. This will give the plant ample time to grow to a respectable height and initiate buds in time for its debut come August.

Yew bushes

“I have some yews growing along the foundation of my house. They are the perfect size right now, but I am worried they will get out of hand. Do you have any pruning tips to pass along?” inquires a Palmer homeowner.

Sure! For this job you will need a pair of hand clippers, not hedge trimmers. New growth is obvious: it is very flexible, lighter in color and extends several inches from the shrub’s silhouette. With clippers in hand, grab a branch, and instead of removing just the new growth, make a cut well within the body of the shrub. This process is called “making windows.” The windows allow light to penetrate the plant’s interior causing regeneration to occur. Repeat in various spots on each shrub for a balanced appearance. Any straggly growth that remains can be nipped back. By pruning in this manner each year, healthy, new growth is encouraged, yet height and width control is maintained. Too labor intensive for you? Alright, use the hedge trimmers first, then make a few windows, for nearly the same effect. Yews were quite popular foundation plants decades ago and are nice evergreens if managed properly and not left to their own devices.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

A QUOTE

of NOTE

“It almost feels like while the decision as ours, it’s not truly ours. When power is taken away from you it can feel very scary and uncertain, especially when other events in other towns are happening around us...I stand committed to celebrating this class regardless of the fact that I am neither a parent nor a student of this class.”

Acting South Hadley High School Principal Liz Wood, in the story “Drive-up graduation to occur Aug. 7”

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Community invited to attend free sessions for seniors

Day Brook Village presents
“COVID-19: Ways to Protect Your Health, Combat Loneliness and Ease Social Isolation”

HOLYOKE – Day Brook Village will offer free educational sessions on “COVID-19: Ways to Protect Your Health, Combat Loneliness and Ease Social Isolation,” both at socially distanced outdoor events offered under a tent, and as an online Webinar.

The sessions will be presented by Dr. Joan Roche, Ph.D., RN, a Board-Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist in Gerontological Nursing with vast experience in the prevention and control of infectious diseases like COVID-19.

The outdoor events will offer a complementary meal. As some experts believe that we may be living with the COVID-19 pandemic into next year, Dr. Roche will provide up-to-date fact-based information and explore ways to better protect seniors’ health and improve overall quality of life during COVID-19 and beyond.

These free programs are being held as a community service to provide helpful information and tips on ways to remain healthy and be prepared, particularly if there is a resurgence or “second wave” this fall or winter.

Dr. Roche will provide fact-checked information including:

- What we’ve learned about COVID-19, and what we still need to know
- The latest advances in the development of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine
- Practical ways to beat loneliness during the COVID-19 era
- How to stay fit and healthy during the COVID-19 era

The outdoor sessions will be held in a tent, with seating provided that is socially distanced and face masks will be required. A free meal will be offered as well.

The Day Brook Village campus (formerly Loomis House) is located at 298 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke, MA. To reserve your space and select your preferred session, visit www.RSVPDayBrookVillage.org by July 24th. For more information, or to have your questions answered, contact Paul Tarasuk at 413-538-7551.

These sessions will take place on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, July 29
12 to 1:30 p.m. (Lunch to be served.)
5 to 6:30 p.m. (Dinner to be served.)

Thursday, July 30
12 to 1:30 p.m. (Lunch to be served.)
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Dinner to be served.)
OR - Join virtually on Zoom:

Friday, July 31
1 to 2 p.m. (RSVP for login information)
Day Brook Village’s independent living accommodations offer across-the-board savings in monthly fees in comparison to its Pioneer Valley independent living retirement community competitors, which could mean thousands in annual savings. Built on a tradition of caring and excellence, Day Brook Village offers a complete continuum of care with independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and Alzheimer’s/dementia memory care all on its one campus. The independent living accommodations include a choice of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments and cottage-style homes. The dining experience at Day Brook Village offers

high-quality, fresh and healthy chef-prepared cuisine.

Day Brook Village is a Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited community. This is the highest operational and service quality accreditation a CCRC can receive.

Learn more or set up an appointment for a tour at www.daybrookvillage.org

Berkshire Healthcare Systems is the leading not-for-profit provider of post-acute care, long-term healthcare and senior housing in Massachusetts.

Berkshire Healthcare owns or operates 14 rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities in Massachusetts; Linda Manor Assisted Living, a traditional assisted living and specialized memory care community in Leeds; Day Brook Village Senior Living, a continuing care retirement community in Holyoke; Kimball Farms, a life care, continuing care retirement community in Lenox; and two hospice providers, HospiceCare in The Berkshires and Pioneer Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, for those with life-limiting illnesses.

Learn more at www.berkshirehealthcare.org



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Joni Fleming

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HAMILTON from page 6

people who’d never considered it before decide it’s time to step forward, serve in public office, and help their fellow citizens make this a better country.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.




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Granby Library keeps doors closed, but books open

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff Writer

GRANBY – While the doors of Granby Public Library have not opened to the public yet, plans were discussed by the Granby Library Board of Trustees last week.

Library Director Jennifer Crosby said the library is busy with curbside pick-up, with anywhere from 25 to 40 pick-ups per day.

Reopening

“We’ve had a lot of people asking when we are going to open or calling begging to use computers – we’re not quite there yet,” Crosby said. “We are in Phase III, libraries are able to open for limited browsing. This can happen when all the cleaning supplies and PPE that are needed to conform to safety standards are allocated. We’re not quite there yet.”

She said limited browsing will require the staff to make sure the person entering has a mask on and sanitizes their hands immediately.

For computer use, silicone keyboard covers have been ordered.

Crosby hopes to be able to read to open in a few weeks to a month.

“The reopening plan as it

stands is to begin with limited browsing in our great hall area by appointment only,” Crosby said. “This will also be limited computer use...we will have two computers open to the public.”

Browsing will be limited to 20 minutes, with a 10-minute cleaning period after patrons leave. Patrons would be scheduled every half hour and computer use would be limited to one hour with an hour break between appointments to allow for sanitization.

“It’s going to be a lot of extra work, there are only two and a half of us here,” Crosby said. “We want to give ourselves enough time to do it correctly, before we start letting too many people in and we get inundated.”

All furniture will need to be removed as well as non-attached papers, signs or materials people can touch.

Staff are going to be required to work at separate stations. More supplies will need to be ordered as well, according to Crosby.

There may be display space for young adult and children’s books to get items out while the rooms are closed.

She added that she might add curbside pick-up as a permanent option as it is currently “the safest and closest choice.”

“I would like to have that op-

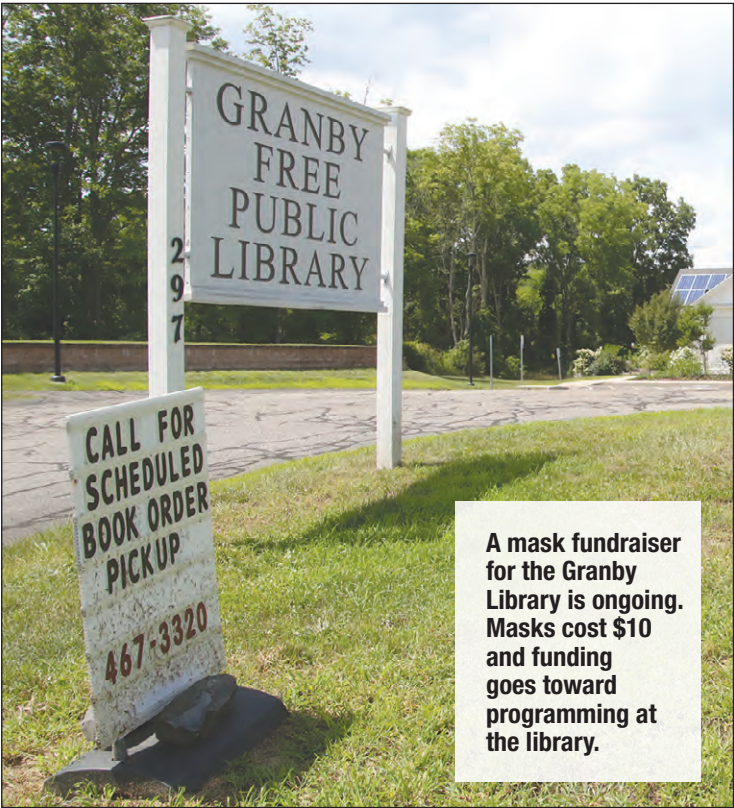


Photo by Melina Bourdeau

tion for those who are compromised or not comfortable coming into the building,” she said. “I want to give them that option.”

Mask fundraiser

Need more masks for your family? Want to support library programming through these

hard times? We have some very dedicated folks who are making masks for the Library. For a \$10 donation get a mask that reflects your/your family’s personality. Prints and sizes based on availability.

There are three sizes - adult, youth and child.

Fabric designs included Star Wars, Marvel Avengers, Matchbox Cars, books, paw prints (white and black), planets, Dr. Seuss (white and turquoise), campers, patriotic swirls, patriotic puppies, yarn and paw prints, sharks, Daniel Tiger, Pete the Cat, Paw Patrol, Frozen, Forkie (Toy Story 4), Trolls and Chubby Kitties.

To order please call the library at 413-467-3320 for contact free pick-up.

Schedule a Curbside No Contact Book Order Pickup Pick up will be scheduled Tuesday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Check the online catalog to search what is currently available at <http://bark.cwmars.org/eg/opac/home?loc=202> and follow Wowbrary to see what’s new (<https://wowbrary.org/signup.aspx?l=6671>) or follow the library on Facebook for ideas <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofgranbylibrary/>. Call the library at 413-467-3320 to schedule your pick up. A minimum one hour call ahead time is required. All pick up times are on a first come, first served basis. At your designated time, pull up to the front and pick up the package(s) with your name on it from the cart. Please put all returns in the book return.

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What better banking’s all about.

Town of Granby Clerk reminders

Staff Report

GRANBY – The Annual Town Meeting will be held outside on Saturday, July 25 at 9 a.m. A tent will be set up by the gym entrance (tennis court side) at the Granby Jr. Sr. High School on the front greens facing 202.

The reason for the change was the tent needed to be secured by pins every 10 feet, and this couldn't be accomplished at the East Meadow parking lot.

Town Meeting Instructions

All residents participating must be a registered voter.

Eligible voters will receive a card and town meeting information at the check in stations. The check –in stations will be lined up on the side of the parking lot, as the cars enter into the parking lot you will be checked in from your vehicles. Check-in will start at 8:15 a.m.

Check in System

For this meeting we will check-in by your names, no

need to show your driver's license, doing it this way we will be able to practice social distancing, and not be handling anyone's driver's license.

Parking

For those that wish to remain in their cars for the meeting there will be limited parking in the tennis court lot, once full you must park in the front of the High School or in-between the High School and East Meadow, there will be plenty of seating in the tent.

If you wish you may bring your own lawn chairs and sit outside the tent, but we must practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away from other voters. Please make sure you bring water, and sunblock and masks are required.

For questions or concerns please call Kathy Kelly-Regan in the Town Clerk's office at 467-7178.

An unusual Annual Town Meeting

Staff Report

GRANBY – This year's Annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, July 25 at 9 a.m. outside of Granby Junior Senior High School under a tent.

In an effort to make this year's unprecedented Annual Town Meeting as safe as possible for residents, the town has implemented the following procedures.

With your help and cooperation, Annual Town Meeting can take place in a safe and responsible manner:

- The meeting will be held outside in the open air under a tent at the Granby Junior Senior High School. There will be limited seating under the tent and chairs will be placed to observe social distancing. There will be individual chairs set up, as well as pairs of chairs for members of the same household. Please do not move any chair from its original placement.
- There also will be a limited amount of parking for those Town Meeting members who prefer to stay in their cars to participate, and we will be broadcasting the meeting via an FM channel. These parking spots will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis.
- You are welcome to bring

your own chairs to sit outside of the tent, as well as umbrellas for sunshade. You also are encouraged to bring water, sunblock and bugspray.

- Face coverings are required and must be worn throughout the meeting. Not everyone who has COVID-19 is symptomatic. Wearing a face covering reduces the risk of transmitting the virus to others, and each of us has a responsibility to protect our neighbors. If you do not have a mask, we can provide a mask for you to wear. Although no one will be turned away from Annual Town Meeting if you are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition or disability, you will be directed to a peripheral area for your own protection and the protection of others.
- Exposure will be limited by keeping the meeting as short as possible: There will be two stationary microphones for Town Members to use for comments and debate. Those wishing to discuss an article will be given a two-minute timeframe. Masks must be kept on while speaking into the microphones. Microphones will be wiped down between speakers. When approaching the microphone to speak, please maintain six-foot separation.

Residents will be voting on a

consent agenda for some articles. A consent agenda is a grouping of non-controversial articles together under one motion in order to save time in a meeting. When a motion to approve several articles as a consent agenda is made and seconded, the Moderator will call out the article numbers in the proposal. Any voter who wants to consider an article separately for debate and/or questions will call out "hold," and the Moderator will remove that article from the consent agenda. Voting will then proceed for the motion to approve (or reject) all the articles in the consent agenda group.

- The bathrooms in the High School will be available for single person "emergency" use.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use.
- Please do not gather outside the meeting after it ends.
- Please do not attend Town Meeting if the answer to any of these questions is yes:
 - Are you feeling sick?
 - Are you having symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell)?
 - Have you been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 within the last 14 days?

ART from page 5

sartphotography@outlook.com
Wednesday, August 5 at 7 p.m.

The Quabbin Art Association are hoping that these classes become another educational component of QAA that will be offered to members and its community.

If you are interested in checking out our webpage go to www.quabbinartassociation.com where you can see additional information about our organization.

This is the first in Quabbin Art Association's summer series of on-line mini art sessions via Zoom.

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Ledges play on

BOS talks about COVID’s effect on golf club

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – When the Ledges Golf Club on Mulligan Drive reopened in early May, golf enthusiasts from across the Pioneer Valley breathed a collective sigh of relief. In the weeks that have since passed, the course has operated without issue and attendance has risen steadily.

Despite the seemingly positive outcome, the closure cost the operation hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Town Administrator Mike Sullivan discussed the financial difficulties facing the town-owned golf course during the July 21 Selectboard meeting.

Even with profits rising, Sullivan estimates that the town has lost approximately \$132,000 of revenue.

As the conversation zoned in on how the money can be recouped, Selectboard member Andrea Miles made it clear that she believes the pandemic isn’t going away, and its affects will linger for several years.

“Something that I want us to think about as we head into this decision is that even if we make a decision to let this ride out of the next three years, that is basing it



The South Hadley Selectboard discussed the losses from the closure of the Ledges Golf Club due to COVID-19.

on COVID-19 affecting only this season,” said Miles. “That’s not going to be the case.”

Sullivan added that the course has fared far better than he expected and credited IGM, the town’s managing partner, with whom South Hadley is partnered with for two more years. At the onset of the pandemic, IGM voluntarily waived its \$12,000 management fee, a move that Sullivan praised.

“I think that it’s wise to approach IGM and see what other areas they can positively affect the fiscal standing of the golf course. They’re aware of it and are also concerned about some of the issues that we’re facing in regard to capital improvements and upkeep,” he said.

Without IGM’s presence, the town would have accrued much greater losses. Selectboard Chair Jeff Cyr explained.

“We’re coming off what would have been one of the



Photos by Dalton Zbierski

The Ledges Golf Club lost about \$132,000 in revenue associated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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VFW recognizes graduates

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Two graduates of the South Hadley High School class of 2020 were recognized for their patriotism on the morning of July 17. During a small ceremony held outside of the South Hadley Town Hall, representatives of VFW Post 3104 awarded Andrew Couture and Olivia Geitz with \$1,000 scholarships.

The Benjamin C. White VFW Post 3104 scholarship is annually awarded to two students who

display a strong appreciation for their country. Couture and Geitz won this year’s essay contest; each teenager submitted a piece highlighting family ties to World War II.

“Both of my grandparents fought in World War II,” said Geitz. “One was at Pearl Harbor; my mom’s father. Then, my dad’s father was in the Navy in the Pacific; he was in the Battle of Okinawa, and his ship was actually hit by a kamikaze, so I’ve always grown up with the stories of my grandfathers fighting in the war. It just seemed like the

perfect scholarship to apply for.”

Couture centered his essay on the aftereffects of WWII and shared his own connection to the military conflict. He’s proud to have discovered details of his grandfather’s contributions to the military.

“It was my grandpa; specifically, my mother’s father. He was in WWII and volunteered for the calling. I was really close to him,” said Couture. “I’ve looked more into my grandfather’s history in the war and also his family’s history in the war. I had actually just gotten some



Andrew Couture and Olivia Geitz have been awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship from VFW Post 3104. Here, they pose in front of the WWII monument in front of Town Hall; both recipients had family members who fought in the war.



Quartermaster Dave Mendoza, VFW Post 3104 Commander Michael Slater, the Geitz family and Post member Michael Cote pose outside of the Town Hall on July 17.

packages from my grandma containing some letters; the impact was great to say the least.”

Geitz took great pride in writing about each of her grandfathers. Inspired by an old paper, she wrote on American imperialism and the Pacific; she detailed how she crafted a meaningful essay.

“Then, I started weaving in some of my personal stories from my family about each of my grandfathers. That was my writing process; I felt like I was doing them proud. Both of my grandfathers have passed away now, but to have that connection to them again and renew those memories of them is special,” said Geitz.

Last Friday’s VFW-sponsored scholarship celebration was the first of its kind to be

held during July outside of the Town Hall. Alongside many other scholarships, the award is typically presented to recipients during a ceremony that is held inside the high school the end of the school year.

“It’s special to be out here. We’ve already missed a lot of everything so to have this one day is pretty nice,” said Geitz.

In the fall, Couture will travel to upstate New York to study Mechanical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Geitz will also transition to the Empire State where she’ll study Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

GRADUATION from page 1

board, including an in-person ceremony at Brunelle’s Marina presented by Andy Yee, an in-person ceremony on the field at South Hadley High School, a ceremony at St. Theresa’s and a drive-up ceremony.

School Committee Chair Kyle Belanger explained the most recent presentation of the four ranked plans to the South Hadley Health Department made it clear that the decision was made.

“Mr. Andy Yee came on and had a beautiful presentation and I can remember a few moments of excitement we all shared at the end of that when we were all imagining the Catalina Wine Mixer as a backdrop for photos,” Belanger said. “That response (from the Health Department) was actually the most strongly worded response from the Health Director (Sharon Hart). There was a stack of really intense documents surrounding liability legal waivers that would not only ban any and all school personnel from attending in person event, but also have attendees sign waivers. This was my experience it would also put the liability if anyone got sick as a result in the lapse of not us a school committee member, our office would be exempt. You couldn’t sue us as school committee members, but you could sue us as people for having voted for it.”

He said he understood the anger from people due to the decision to have a drive-up graduation, however, “we’re out of options.”

Acting Superintendent Diana Bonneville expressed a similar

sentiment.

“Even if we have it at the marina that also makes the people who host liable. There is a waiver that excludes us from our positions, however personal liability is not covered in the waiver,” Bonneville said. “God forbid if something happens while trying to keep 650 people safe... (With) the drive-up method, every student would have three to five minutes to get out and move their tassel. We don’t actually give them a diploma or shake their hand, because that’s not permissible, but families would be allowed as many people as can fit in their car and take pictures. “I know that’s not ideal, but I can’t think of a better alternative to keep everyone safe.”

School Committee member Christine Phillips expressed concern for other events occurring at the schools.

“I think it’s very hypocritical that we are allowing things to happen on town property that assume the same risk – the vigil, field hockey,” said Phillips. “And teams were having these things happen on our property, yet why are we not concerned about that? There’s a place for a vigil, there’s a place for graduation, but there is a place for sports, but they are under the pandemic umbrella. When you have 140 kids that are being told ‘No you can’t have this,’ but yet a vigil is allowed to be had the week before, I really think we’re sending the wrong message.”

Belanger said he feels the difference between the events occurring at the schools and the proposed graduation at the marina was that if they held graduation

“it would be widely known that we went against the wishes of the Health Director and Town Administrator,” and “the implied personal liability would be on our shoulders.”

Interim South Hadley High School Principal, Liz Wood, said she can’t imagine the heartache that is being felt by the students and families of the class of 2020, but felt there was no other option than a drive-up graduation.

“It almost feels like while the decision is ours, it’s not truly ours,” Wood said. “When power is taken away from you, it can feel very scary and uncertain, especially when other events in other towns are happening around us. I can’t speak to those other events or towns, I can only speak to the events that we’ve prepared, and I said to someone today I have four sets for piles of plans, purchase orders and requisitions... I stand committed to celebrating this class regardless of the fact that I am neither parent nor student of this class.”

The drive-up graduation will have families drive up in their vehicles with a maximum of eight people, including the graduate. There will be a stage and a podium where students will walk across, receive their diploma and then take photos.

Wood said she hopes to get a professional photographer to take photos for families.

The ceremony would be filmed by South Hadley Community Television to include student speeches as well.

Wood also requested that students register in advance of the event and to notify the school if they do not intend on attending.

Three County Fair hits reset until 2021

NORTHAMPTON – The Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society, the non-profit organization that manages the oldest continuously operated agricultural fair in the country, has announced the postponement of the originally scheduled 2020 Three County Fair until September 3 to 6, 2021 due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

In the meantime, fair officials have begun the process of outlining an alternative Three County Fair for exhibitors only and limited agricultural competitions taking place following approval from local officials and within existing guidelines, protocols and restrictions for Indoor and Outdoor Events under the Massachusetts Reopening Plan.

“At this time, large venues and sizeable crowds are still prohibited until vaccines or treatments are developed, which is in place out of precaution and best interest of the general public, including our fairgoers” stated James Przypek, General Manager of the Three County Fair. “We did our due diligence and prepared to operate with new measures in place for fairgoer safety and held out as long as we could, but the large venue restrictions make the originally scheduled fair improbable.”

Three County Fair “2.0” would take place on the same days over Labor Day weekend this year but will be closed to the public. Competitions will

be limited to only two different livestock shows per day to stay below the current capacity limitations. Exhibitors who enter the Exhibit Hall competitions, including arts & crafts, baking, needlework, photography, and more, will be required to drop off their entries in advance with judging taking place on Friday.

The anticipated schedule for the Three County Fair “2.0” is:

Friday, September 4 – Exhibit Hall Judging

Saturday, September 5 – Boer Goat & Youth Oxen Shows

Sunday, September 6 – Adult & Youth Dairy Shows

Monday, September 7 – Youth Rabbit & Sheep Shows

“You don’t get to be the longest running agricultural fair in the country without being able to adapt, adjust and evolve” continued Przypek. “Hitting the reset button on this year’s fair and being able to conduct a handful of competitions helps us fulfill our mission to promote agriculture in the three Western Mass counties that we represent. We have a duty to all of our supporters to continue with this purpose to keep the next generation engaged in the agricultural education and science that helps sustain our everyday lives here in the Pioneer Valley.”

More information on Three County Fair “2.0” and how to enter one of this year’s competitions can be found on the company’s website, 3countyfair.com

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Will high schools be able to play fall sports?



Field hockey could be a sport that could resume as it was not on the governor's list of "at-risk" activities.



Soccer was barred for the summer, with the PVSSL canceling its season. MIAA officials are discussing this week whether soccer can be played this fall.



With football currently banned at the amateur level, will Western Mass. high school football commence in September?

MIAA to discuss potential start date for fall sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Earlier this year, the high school and college sports worlds were ruined by the cancellation of all spring sports at each level, ranging up through Division 1 schools, and professional sports.

There always seemed to be an optimism at the time that sports would be able to resume without an issue this fall and at the high school level in Massachusetts, athletic directors

planned a fall schedule, much like they do each spring as most schedules are made out a season in advance.

But as the summer rages on with next to no activity and sports like soccer and football banned (for having games) despite Massachusetts' improved situation compared to the rest of the country, now fall sports seem to be in doubt.

Several New England colleges and universities have declared that fall sports are postponed due to the recent spikes

throughout the rest of the country and concerns over interstate travel and the lack of a vaccine which guarantees the stop of an overwhelming spread of COVID-19.

Massachusetts, as of last week, still maintains a positive test rate of less than 2 percent, but the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is still having to consider the potential impact of allowing high school athletes back on fields,

Please see **FALL**, page 13

MASCAC suspends fall sports programs

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University athletics announced that the Owls will not have intercollegiate competition for fall sports teams in the Fall 2020 season, in conjunction with the announcement from the league's Council of Presidents on Thursday, July 16, 2020 that the entire Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) will not compete in fall sports programs.

The Owls' fall sports teams (football, men's and women's soccer, field hockey, volleyball, men's and women's cross country and men's

Please see **MASCAC**, page 13

Robie gets win in modified race

Sonhalter captures mini-stock battle

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Brian Robie (Sunapee, NH) topped a big field of NHSTRA Modifieds Saturday, July 18, charging from row four to score his first win of the season at Monadnock Speedway. Hillary Renaud (Vernon, VT), meanwhile, led all the way to earn her first season victory in the ultra-competitive Street Stocks.

And, while Renaud was busy scoring her first victory lane celebration, Late Model Sportsman star Aaron Fellows (Croydon, VT) stayed perfect on the year, using a late-race pass to overcome his strongest challenge of the summer en route to victory lane. Vermont pilot Matt Sonhalter (White River Junction, VT) wired the nightcap 50-lap Mini Stock event.



Matt Sonhalter picks up the win in the mini-stock race

There are few sounds in life that come close to that made by a big field of Modifieds thundering atop the blacktop in pursuit of Saturday night glory. That thunder is heard weekly at Monadnock Speedway, where, Saturday, Matt Kimball and Rob Richardi led the 18-car Modified field to battle.

Kimball, gunning to turn a season-long hard luck run around, jumped all over the lead as the 40-lapper went green.

Richardi stayed glued to his bumper, with defending track king Todd Patnode quickly entering the hunt.

By lap ten, Patnode held the deuce spot, while two-time 2020 winner Ben Byrne was rocketing up to third. Coming from row five, Byrne took the three-spot on lap 14 but he and Patnode's battle would be a short one. Coming quickly onto a cloud of lappers on lap 18, the potent pair came together, ending Patnode's night early for the second week in a row and sending Byrne to the rear.

The turn-one tangle brought Robie alongside Kimball on the restart and, two laps later, he had the point, then dashing off to victory just ahead of the second-generation hot shoe, with Byrne charging back through the pack to finish third on the night. Robie's victory moved him to

Please see **RACE**, page 16

Organisak defeats Maccario for Mass. Amateur title

MARION – Sudbury native Matthew Organisak, 22, has defeated Waltham’s Nick Maccario, 28, by a score of 2 up to capture the 112th Massachusetts Amateur title in Friday’s 36-hole championship match at The Kittansett Club in Marion. This is the first state amateur win for Organisak, who represents Nashawtuc CC in Concord and recently graduated Emory University in Atlanta. Mike Ohanian, the 1968 champion, is the only other person to win it while representing Nashawtuc. Organisak also won the 2019 Francis Ouimet Memorial Tournament, also a Mass Golf championship. Organisak joins Patrick Frodigh (2018) and Ben Spitz (2006) as the only left-handed golfers to win it since 2000. Match Summary: The first 18 holes ended in a tie, with both men winning five holes. Organisak won four of the first six holes over the next 18 holes and never trailed. He birdied the 9th (27th overall) and 10th (28th) to take a 4-up lead. Maccario won the 12th (30th) and 13th (31st) and

made birdie on the 17th (35th) to cut it to 1 up, but Organisak was on the 18th (36th) green in three, and Maccario conceded after missing his par putt. Organisak, 22, made his first appearance in the Mass Amateur championship final. The Sudbury native is a recent graduate of Emory University in Atlanta where he finished No. 2 for program scoring average, posting a mark of 73.04 strokes over 86 rounds of play. Organisak, a former standout at Lincoln-Sudbury High School, won the 2019 Francis Ouimet Memorial Tournament, and in 2016, qualified for the U.S. Amateur. Maccario, 28, made his first appearance in the Mass Amateur championship final. He won the 2019 Mass Mid-Amateur championship and the 2019 Mass Four-Ball (with Mike Calef). He also played in the 2019 U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst No. 2 & No. 4 in North Carolina. He attended St. John’s Prep in high school and also had a stint on the St. Anselm College men’s golf team.

FALL from page 12

especially with soccer and football contests barred at the amateur level. The ban does not specifically affect high school players, and the MIAA is working with the governor’s office on guidance. The MIAA’s board of directors, which recently changed some of its membership around due to re-districting, was scheduled to meet earlier this week to discuss a potential start date for fall sports. Ludlow High School Athletic Director Tim Brillo was a former member of the Board of Directors, but lost his seat on July 1 with the re-districting. “I’m not on the board anymore, but I am hopeful that we will be able to have a fall season,” said Brillo. While Massachusetts is still on a good trajectory with a low infection rate, fear of a spike or a “second wave” if too much activity is allowed, is what is driving some decisions about whether to allow athletics and whether or not some school will involve remote learning this fall. Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton said there are other restrictions he will have to contend with. While there is no interstate trav-

el involved, travel is going to be limited. “We’re only allowed to have a certain number of kids on the buses at a time,” said Stratton. “That could limit our ability to have JV games on the road.” He said JV sports could be cancelled altogether, or JV squads could have geographically limited schedules or parents could be responsible for transportation. He also said EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) becomes a major factor as there are confirmed cases. He said the EEE wrinkle in the region could further limit sports because game times would have to be before dark until there is a frost. Stratton said there is a possibility that sports like soccer and football could experience a delay, while sports not labeled at as high a risk, like golf, cross country, and volleyball, could be allowed to play immediately. “These are all things being discussed by the MIAA and it’s committees,” said Stratton, who is part of the sports medicine sub-committee. “Hopefully we have will have some answers soon.”

Racing to resume in Thompson

THOMPSON, Conn. – Econn Motorsports and Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park announced this week an agreement that will enable oval track racing to continue on the famed 5/8th mile at Thompson, CT. A tentative 2020 schedule has been developed with the first event being an open practice on Wednesday, July 8. Plans currently call for Econn Motorsports to also host an open practice on Wednesday, August 5. Racing is set to resume with the Bud 150 on

Wednesday August 19 and the Sunoco World Series on October 9-11. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is expected to headline both race dates. The parties are exploring the possibility of additional race meets during 2020. Econn Motorsports is a newly formed race promotion and consulting firm headed by Terry Eames, former General Manager of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. “The COVID-19 pandemic put oval track racing at Thompson in

2020 at risk. We are proud to announce that the Hoenig family and Econn have found a way for oval track racing to continue during the track’s 80th year and beyond”, Eames said. Specific details of next week’s practice will be available over the next several days at EconnMotorsports.com. Tickets will only be available online and in advance in keeping with the policies set forth by the State of Connecticut designed to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Relics return to action after long hiatus

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics, which is a summer/fall Senior Softball recreational slow pitch League has resumed play last week. The Relics field two divisions: the silver division is comprised of men 50-64 years of age and the bronze division is men 65 and over. For the more competitive player there is opportunity to join a travel team and participate in local, regional and national

tournaments. Teams in both divisions normally play two games a week in the evenings, with all games played at the Fish & Game Club in Ludlow. These weekly games emphasize fun, friendship and good sportsmanship. This year due to the coronavirus all players have to wear masks in the field except the outfielders. The players temperatures are taken before they

enter the field. If a player has a temperature, the player must leave the field and return home. Players must bring a lawn chair so they can social distance when a team is batting. The Relics have dispensed with hand shaking, fist bumps and any other contact with players. For further information or to join the league contact Steve Lepow at 860-885-4556 or Ted Chmura at 413-589-1965.

MASCAC from page 12

and women’s golf) will have the ability to practice on campus while utilizing the NCAA Resocialization of Sport Guidelines. “I am extremely disappointed to have to announce to our student-athletes and families that our fall season teams will not have the opportunity to play intercollegiate games this fall,” said athletics director Richard Lenfest, Jr. “The COVID-19 pandemic has had an extreme impact on public health, and ultimately we need to take the steps that best protect the health of our student athletes and their loved ones in limiting the opportunity to spread or contract the virus.” “I am happy that we still be able to provide team activities through practices, conditioning and skill training,” added Lenfest. “Athletics provides numerous benefits to our athletes, including strengthening their social networks, health, fitness, and general mental well-being through the benefit of exercise. Student-athletes will be able to train with their coaches, and while group sizes and activities may be modified to meet health

guidelines, there is still the opportunity to reap the benefits provided by college athletics.” A decision on the winter sport seasons was deferred until September by the Council of Presidents. The NCAA has issued several blanket waivers regarding eligibility. Student-athletes who’s teams compete in less than 50 percent of that sports maximum allowable games for the fall 2020 season will not use a year of eligibility, so that Owl fall sport athletes who take part in team practices and activities will not lose a year of eligibility. “The NCAA has acted swiftly to ensure that student-athletes do not unduly lose eligibility due to the pandemic’s impact on competition,” said Lenfest. “Our staff will be available to our athletes to answer any questions they have about eligibility.” The MASCAC is also investigating the ability to allow fall-season sports to compete in the spring, should public health conditions allow for it, pending NCAA rules. “Ultimately, we are committed to providing the best experience and the safest experience for our student athletes,” said

Lenfest. “This fall, the safest option is to not compete in intercollegiate games, but we can provide the best possible experience given the current health situation by having team practices and training. We are fully committed to getting back to intercollegiate competition as quickly as possible, as allowed under the Conference and NCAA Guidelines, as well as local, State and Federal health guidelines permit.” Owl student athletes will not return to campus early for pre-season in 2020, they will instead follow the Safe Fall Opening procedures established by the University, and team activities will start in early September. Coaches will be reaching out to their individual teams and players to further outline team plans and training schedules. Westfield State athletics has consistently been the top program in the MASCAC. The Owls won the 2019-20 Howard C. Smith Cup, signifying the best overall athletics program in the league based on regular season records, and the Owls have claimed the Cup five times in the last six years and nine times since 2007.

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413-374-7779

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QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.50
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Quabbin Village Hills

Circulation: 50,500

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CHESTERFIELD
WILLIAMSBURG
MIDDLEFIELD
CHESTER
HARTFORD
OXB
BLANDFORD
ROSEL
SANDFIELD
TOLLAND
GRANVILLE
WESTFIELD

Hilltowns

Circulation: 9,800

EASTHAMPTON
HOLYOKE
SOUTH HADLEY
W. SPRINGFIELD
AGAWAM
HAMPDEN

Suburban Residential

Circulation: 59,000

HADLEY
CHECOPEE
SPRINGFIELD
WILBRAHAM
LUDLOW

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal _____

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TOTAL Enclosed _____

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☒ Quabbin

☒ Suburban

☒ Hilltowns

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Extreme Brush Cutting!
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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM DPW WORKER (2) Looking for 2 reliable DPW Workers. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 08/07/2020 at 4:30 PM. EOE

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FOR SALE OR RENT East Otis, MA 2, year round cottages on 1/2 acre lot, on private Drive and 40ft dock on the lake. Great for swimming, boating, fish-ing, etc. Call Paul (860)621-6332. Or text Debby (860)302-0920

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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not know-ingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

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Full/Part time and Relief positions available.

Apply now: www.pathlightgroup.org

Public Notices

Public Notice under the Wetlands Protection Act – Amendment to Superseding Order of Conditions
MassDEP No. 288-275.
The applicant and owner **Spencer R. Hart and Jennifer L. Hart, of No. 1 Stonegate Drive, Lot B-7** and shown on South Hadley Tax Map No. 42, Parcel 68 are seeking to amend a Superseding Order of Conditions as approved under MassDEP File No. 288-275 and recorded at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Book 6917, Page 177.
Said proposed Amendment is shown on a plan drawn by Durkee, White, Towne and Chapdelaine, drawing number 119-7064, scale 1" = 20' and dated June 23, 2020.
Said proposed Amendment is before the MassDEP for review. Public comments regarding this proposed Amendment may be provided to MassDEP up to 21 calendar days following the first day of this public notice, any public com-

ments must be received by MassDEP by no later than **August 14, 2020.**
Anyone seeking to obtain a copy of the orig-inally-approved and pro-posed site plans for this project may contact Mr. David Cameron, MassDEP Western Regional Office MassDEP by phone (413) 755-2138 or david.cameron@mass.gov. Comments may be sent via email to the same or by letter to:
MassDEP - WERO
Attn: David Cameron
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103
07/24/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submis-sion (i.e., date, time, spelling).
Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.
Thank you.

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RACE from page 12

the top of the points parade. The Curtis twins, Chase and Jaret, did all they could to keep Hillary Renaud from taking her first career Street Stock victory lap but, on this night, the Vernon, VT. driver could not be stopped.

Chase Curtis was all over her back bumper for most of the race, sometimes even bumping it, without finding a path to the point, while brother Jaret did the same due diligence in his shadow. With the white flag in the air, Jaret rocketed low through turn two to claim the deuce, then watching Renaud flash under the checkers just ahead of him. Chris Buffone was fourth on the night, and Mike Radzuik rounded out the top five.

Cole Littlewood did something Saturday that nobody else had accomplished so far this season, outrun Aaron Fellows for 21 laps in the LMS feature. Piloting the Steve Brehio ride, Littlewood kept Fellows in his shadow until the Croydon pilot took a wheels-length advantage on lap 22, and then soared off to victory.

Robert Hagar powered into second on the white flag lap, with Littlewood completing his strong night's work in third. The victory was Fellows' second of



Aaron Fellows was a winner in the Late Model Sportsman race.

the weekend and kept him undefeated this season.

Matt Sonnhalter was in the house Saturday to hunt for victory in the 50-lap Mini Stock main event, the first leg of the regional 2020 Battle for The Belt series. And while the speedway's weekly racing series drivers did well, nobody could catch the speedy Sonnhalter.

Nathan Wenzel and Jared Soucy were frequently closest to Sonnhalter, but it was 2019 track champ Louie Maher II who came closest at the end. Firing from way back in row eight, Maher methodically charged forward, getting past potent Gordon Far-

num late to claim the runner-up hardware. Farnum's third place run moved him back atop the hometrack points parade.

Next Saturday, July 25, the thundering NEMA Midgents and NEMA Lites will join the Monadnock Speedway weekly racing series divisions for an exciting night of racing on the high banks. Advanced General Admission Tickets are available. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

Monadnock Speedway
July 18, 2020 results:
NHSTRA MODIFIEDS:
Brian Robie, Matt Kimball,



Submitted photos

Brian Robie came out on top in the NHSTRA Modified race.

Ben Byrne, Trevor Bleau, Anthony Bello, Solomon Brow, Rob Richradi, Kim Rivet, Keith Carzello, Kevin Pittsinger, Brian Crunden, Jason Houle, Jerry Gomarlo, Eric Leclair, Cory Plummer, Cameron Houle, Scott MacMichael, Todd Patnode

MINI STOCK (50-lap Battle for The Belt): Matt Sonnhalter, Louie Maher, Gordon Farnum, Dan Sweeney, Nathan Sweeney, Kevin Clayton, Billy Chaffee, Joshua Hubbard, Tim Leblanc, Jeff Asselin, Shelby Avery, Haydon Grenier, Jake Puchalski,

Jared Soucey, Andrew Harmon, Kevin McKnight, Kevin Russell, Bobby Kirker, Pat Houle

STREET STOCK: Hillary Renaud, Jaret Curtis, Chase Curtis, Chris Buffone, Mike Radzuik, Chris Riendeau, Tim Wenzel, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard, Ben Williams

LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN: Aaron Fellows, Robert Hagar, Cole Littlewood, Camdyn Curtis, Justin Littlewood, Willie Kuhn, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Chris Ballas, Scott Beck



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Rev 'Em up for Rachele

You Could win a 2019 Harley Davidson
Electra Glide Motorcycle



Tickets are \$100 Each
Only 400 Tickets Available

Motorcycle will be raffled on August 22, 2020, after our Famous Poker Run and Chicken Babecue which starts and ends at St. Stans Polish Club on South Street in West Warren, Massachusetts. The Poker Run (\$20 pp includes Chicken Barbecue) is sold separately from the motorcycle tickets.

We are sponsoring these benefits to honor and remember Rachele Ann Beer. Rachele passed away pn Pctober 9, 2019, at age 35. After bravely fighting cancer. This impressive mtorcycle was purchased to be raffled to raise funds to help save Rachele's life. We have had to shift gears since her passing. Rachele attended the Center of Hope for many years. Her family would appreciate the proceeds in Rachele's memory to be applied to purchase needed ite,s for her peers, such as sensory equipment, ipads and music related items at the Center of Hope. We will also be making a donation to Clowning for Kidz Foundation for their help in assistanee in the raffles.



Sincerely,
The Beer Family of Spencer





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